

## IOWA NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS - RECOMMENDED PLANTING LIST

**Common Name: Oak\*\***

**Insect Species Supported:**

**534**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Black Oak	Quercus velutina	60	medium	intermediate	upland woods; sandy, alluvial flats	reforestation
Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	100	slow	intermediate	dry uplands; slopes	excellent long term shade tree
Chinkapin Dwarf Oak	Quercus prinoides	20	slow	intolerant	dry ridges; rocky bluffs	limited availability
Chinkapin Oak	Quercus muhlenbergii	50	slow	intolerant	exposed bluffs; rocky bluffs	excellent shade tree for southern half of Iowa
Northern Pin Oak	Quercus ellipsoidalis	50	medium	intolerant	open, sandy, upland woods	excellent shade tree
Pin Oak	Quercus palustris	60	slow	intolerant	alluvial woods	landscape tree
Post Oak	Quercus stellata	30	slow	intolerant	dry, open, upland woods; SE Iowa	limited availability
Red Oak	Quercus rubra	70	medium	intermediate	moist, upland woods	excellent shade tree
Shingle Oak	Quercus imbricaria	45	slow	intermediate	bottomlands; dry hillsides	street tree; for southern Iowa
Swamp White Oak	Quercus bicolor	70	slow	intermediate	alluvial woods	excellent shade tree
White Oak	Quercus alba	100	slow	intermediate	upland woods; dry slopes	shade tree / sensitive to compaction and root damage

**Common Name: Willow\*\***

**Insect Species Supported:**

**456**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Bebb Willow	Salix bebbiana	25	fast	intolerant	moist ground; north facing slopes; fens	limited availability
Black Willow	Salix nigra	50	fast	very intolerant	streambanks; lake margins; alluvial woods	riparian areas
Coyote Willow	Salix exigua	25	fast	intolerant	streambanks; sandbars; alluvial bottoms	
Heart-leaved Willow	Salix rigida	10	fast	very intolerant	streambanks; wet lowlands; ditches	limited availability
Meadow Willow	Salix petiolaris	10	fast	very intolerant	moist prairie remnants; marsh edges; fens	limited availability
Missouri River Willow	Salix eriocephala	40	fast	intolerant	streambanks; wet lowlands ;ditches	
Peachleaf Willow	Salix amygdaloides	40	fast	intolerant	along streams	riparian areas

Species are native to Omaha/Council Bluffs Metro area. List is not comprehensive.

Pussy Willow	Salix discolor	15	fast	intolerant	streambanks; low prairies; marsh edges	great riparian plant
Sandbar Willow	Salix interior	30	fast	intolerant	streambanks; sandbars; alluvial bottoms	riparian areas
Shining Willow	Salix lucida	25	fast	intolerant	low, moist ground; lakeshores; streambanks; fens	riparian areas

**Common Name:**

**Cherry/Plum\*\***

**Insect Species Supported:**

**456**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Black Cherry	Prunus serotina	50	medium	intolerant	moist, wooded slopers; upland woods	needs full sun
Canada Plum	Prunus nigra	20	medium	intolerant	steep, north or east facing slopes	limited availability
Chokecherry	Prunus virginiana	20	medium	very intolerant	open woods; woodland borders; rocky bluffs	extremely hardy / black knot; short service life
Hortulan Plum	Prunus hortulana	15	medium	very intolerant	road cuts; low woods	limited availability
Mexican Plum	Prunus mexicana	20	medium	very intolerant	moist prairie remnants; marsh edges; fens	limited availability
Pin Cherry	Prunus pennsylvanica	30	fast	very intolerant	woods; clearings	short lived
Wild Plum	Prunus americana	20	fast	very intolerant	fencerows; woodland edges; open woods	great for wildlife

**\*\*Keystone Species**

**Common Name: Birch**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**413**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Paper Birch	Betula papyrifera	70	fast	intolerant	steep, sheltered, rocky bluffs; north facing slopes	limited to NE Iowa
River Birch	Betula nigra	80	fast	intolerant	alluvial woods; stream margins	leaf miner; moisture stress; short service life
Yellow Birch	Betula alleghaniensis	100	medium	intermediate	north facing, rocky, wooded slopes	

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**Common Name: Poplar,  
Cottonwood**  
**Insect Species Supported:**  
**368**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Balsam Poplar	Populus balsamifera	50	fast	very intolerant	moist woods; woodland edges	
Bigtooth Aspen	Populus grandidentata	45	fast	very intolerant	moist to dry; usually upland woods	
Quaking Aspen	Populus tremuloides	40	fast	very intolerant	open woods; moist prairies; woodland edges	background planting

**Common Name:**  
**Crabapple**  
**Insect Species Supported:**  
**311**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Prairie Crabapple	Malus ioensis	22	medium	intolerant	dry, busy uplands; open woods; prairie remnants	ornamental; highly resistant to diseases

**Common Name: Maple,  
Boxelder**  
**Insect Species Supported:**  
**285**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Black Maple	Acer nigrum	60	medium	very tolerant	moist woods; wooded slopes	excellent shade tree on well drained sites
Boxelder	Acer negundo	50	fast	tolerant	alluvial woods; moist, disturbed areas; riparian areas	short lived; storms
Mountain Maple	Acer spicatum	20	slow	tolerant	steep, moist, north & east facing wooded slopes	limited availability
Red Maple	Acer rubrum	50	medium	tolerant	wooded bluffs	excellent shade tree
Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	120	very fast	tolerant	alluvial woods; riparian areas	fast growing shade tree
Sugar Maple	Acer saccharum	60	medium	very tolerant	moist woods; wooded slopes	excellent shade tree

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**Common Name: Elm**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**213**

<b>Native to Iowa</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Height (ft)</b>	<b>Growth Rate</b>	<b>Shade Tolerance</b>	<b>Natural Habitat</b>	<b>Uses/Limitations</b>
American Elm	Ulmus americana	70	medium	intermediate	woods; especially alluvial flats	dutch elm disease
Rock Elm	Ulmus thomasii	70	medium	intermediate	bases of moist, wooded slopes	dutch elm disease
Slippery Elm	Ulmus rubra	60	medium	tolerant	wooded slopes & bluffs	dutch elm disease

**Common Name: Pine**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**203**

<b>Native to Iowa</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Height (ft)</b>	<b>Growth Rate</b>	<b>Shade Tolerance</b>	<b>Natural Habitat</b>	<b>Uses/Limitations</b>
White Pine	Pinus strobus	90	medium	intermediate	sandy or rocky, steep, wooded slopes/ledges	best in eastern half of Iowa

**Common Name: Hickory**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**200**

<b>Native to Iowa</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Height (ft)</b>	<b>Growth Rate</b>	<b>Shade Tolerance</b>	<b>Natural Habitat</b>	<b>Uses/Limitations</b>
Bitternut Hickory	Carya cordiformis	70	slow	intolerant	upland woods; wooded slopes; bluffs	shade tree; reforestation / limited availability
Pecan	Carya illinoensis	70	slow	intolerant	alluvial woods; SE Iowa	nuts
Pignut Hickory	Carya glabra	70	slow	intermediate	dry, upland woods	reforestation / limited availability
Shagbark Hickory	Carya ovata	70	slow	intermediate	dry, upland woods; bluffs; statewide	nuts / limited availability
Shellbark Hickory	Carya laciniosa	70	slow	very tolerant	alluvial woods; southern Iowa	limited availability

**Common Name: Hawthorn**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**200**

<b>Native to Iowa</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Height (ft)</b>	<b>Growth Rate</b>	<b>Shade Tolerance</b>	<b>Natural Habitat</b>	<b>Uses/Limitations</b>
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Cockspur Hawthorn	Crataegus crus-galii	20	slow	intermediate	open, upland woods; pastures	attractive; thornless
Dotted Hawthorn	Crataegus punctata	25	slow	intermediate	open woods; pastures	rust; mildew; fruit litter
Downy Hawthorn	Crataegus mollis	30	slow	intermediate	open, upland woods; sandy alluvium	rust
Fleshy Hawthorn	Crataegus succulenta	30	slow	intermediate	open woods; woodland edges	limited availability
Margaret's Hawthorn	Crataegus margaretta	30	slow	intermediate	upland woods; slopes; open alluvial woods	limited availability
Pear Hawthorn	Crataegus calpodendron	30	slow	intermediate	prairie openins in upland woods; edges	limited availability

**Common Name: Alder**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**156**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Speckled Alder	Alnus incana	30	medium	intermediate	sandy soil in alluvial woods; streamsides; seeps	

**Common Name: Spruce**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**156**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
None						

**Common Name: Ash**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**150**

Native to Iowa	Latin Name	Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat	Uses/Limitations
Black Ash	Fraxinus nigra	50	medium	intolerant	moist, wooded slopes; alluvium	limited availability
Blue Ash	Fraxinus quadrangulata	40	medium	intermediate	rocky bluffs	shade tree / limited availability
Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	60	fast	tolerant	alluvial or low, moist woods	good shade tree
White Ash	Fraxinus americana	70	medium	intolerant	upland woods	excellent shade tree / ash decline

Species are native to Omaha/Council Bluffs Metro area. List is not comprehensive.

**Common Name:**

**Basswood, Linden**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**150**

<b>Native to Iowa</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Height (ft)</b>	<b>Growth Rate</b>	<b>Shade Tolerance</b>	<b>Natural Habitat</b>	<b>Uses/Limitations</b>
American Basswood	Tilia americana	80	fast	tolerant	moist, upland woods/slopes; protected bluffs/ravines	shade tree / intolerant of salt

**Common Name: Filbert,**

**Hazelnut**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**150**

<b>Native to Iowa</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Height (ft)</b>	<b>Growth Rate</b>	<b>Shade Tolerance</b>	<b>Natural Habitat</b>	<b>Uses/Limitations</b>
American Hazelnut	Corylus americana	15	medium	intermediate	woodland openings and borders	great for wildlife
Beaked Hazelnut	Corylus cornuta	6	medium	intermediate	north facing wooded slopes; algific talus slopes	limited availability

**Common Name: Walnut,**

**butternut**

**Insect Species Supported:**

**130**

<b>Native to Iowa</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Height (ft)</b>	<b>Growth Rate</b>	<b>Shade Tolerance</b>	<b>Natural Habitat</b>	<b>Uses/Limitations</b>
Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	80	fast	intolerant	moist woodlands; especially alluvial woods	great wildlife tree; good nut production
Butternut	Juglans cinerea	60	slow	intolerant	moist, wooded slopes; alluvial woods	nuts; shade tree / butternut decline